Organise! friends of the International Workers' Association
Southern Bulletin

CLASS WAR

Issue 8. Sept 2025

CONFRONTING RACISM

AND FASCISM ACROSS IRELAND

This summer has seen attacks on migrants continue unabated. Beginning on June 9th, Ballymena erupted in rioting following the alleged sexual assault of a young girl by two Romanians. Reports indicate that there had been tensions between locals and members of the Roma community prior to the riots. Homes were damaged by fire and cars were set alight, including the car of a Filipino man. As a result of these arson attacks, many in the community were displaced, with some being housed in a former leisure centre. This was subsequently set alight as rioting spread to other areas in East Antrim and Belfast. Threatened racist attacks were stopped in Beechmount while an anti-immigrant march took place under Tri-colours in Newry on Monday 23rd June. More recently mobs have attacked the cars of delivery drivers in East Belfast. Here in the South, over a 10 day period in July, tents belonging to homeless people seeking protection in Dublin parks were targeted and slashed, amplified through social media disinformation campaigns. Beginning on the 19th of July, there have been a number of reported attacks on members of the Indian community.

Continued on p. 2

INSIDE: Environmentalism without class struggle is just gardening; Women's Health; Is 'No War But the Class War' mere sloganeering?; Sexual Harassment in the National Ambulance Service; and more...

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the latest edition of Class War, the anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a white, male industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

CONFRONTING RACISM AND FASCISM ACROSS IRELAND

Far-right out in Cork

On 19th July, an Indian male falsely accused of exposing himself outside a playground in Kilnamanagh in Tallaght Co. Dublin was stripped naked, beaten and robbed before being left on the side of the road. Fortunately a passerby, Jennifer Murray, stopped and provided assistance to the man while others were content to stand and taunt him. Days later, another Indian man was brutally attacked in Clondalkin, his attackers hitting him in the face, chest, back and legs, leaving him with a fracture, gashes and multiple bruises. Shortly after this incident, an Indian taxi driver was attacked by two passengers in Ballymun. Not to mention attacks on Indian children, including a six year old girl in Co Waterford who was punched in the face and told to go back to India. These attacks have left members of the Indian community in Ireland fearful, and reluctant to leave the house. There have also been reports that they now view this country as unsafe.

In the UK in August, the far-right began Operation Raise the Colours, which has led to both the Union Jack and St George's Cross being flown from lamp posts, as well as St George's Crosses being painted onto mini roundabouts. In typical fashion, this seems to have now spread to Ireland, with tricolours seemingly being used to mark out territory in communities by the far right. Both the Taoiseach Michael Martin and Tanaiste Simon Harris have condemned this use of the Irish flag. Dublin City Council have also been in discussion with An Garda Siochana regarding an appropriate response.

However, attempts to "reclaim" the tricolour smack to us of nationalism of a different sort, still leading only to an 'us vs them' mentality. It should not matter what is the right or the wrong way to display a national flag - what should matter is that our neighbours and co-workers from migrant backgrounds feel safe in their communities. We need to build solidarity in our communities and show racists and bigots that there is no place for their hate-filled message or actions.

Racists mob migrant delivery driver's car in East Belfast

Environmentalism Without Class Struggle is Just Gardening.

Lady's Island Lake in County Wexford is among Ireland's biggest and best examples of a sedimentary lagoon. This Special Protection Area supports an exceptional diversity of plant and animal life, including the largest mixed colony of terns in Ireland. The critically endangered Cottonweed plant survives on the gravel barrier separating the lagoon from the adjoining Celtic Sea, and is not found anywhere else in Ireland or the UK. However, similarly to Lough Neagh in the North, an environmental crisis is unfolding at the lake. Nutrient pollution, particularly nitrates, have fuelled the growth of algae in the lake, turning the water green and starving it of oxygen. In another similarity to Lough Neagh, the major cause of the lake's pollution is believed to be agricultural run off due to intensive farming in the surrounding area. However, unlike Lough Neagh, which provides 40% of the North's drinking water, it is only the ecosystem of Lady's Island Lake that is dependent on its survival. The same intensive farming practices which are killing off both Lady's Island Lake and Lough Neagh are also driving climate change. Agriculture remains Ireland's largest source of emissions, and has led to a significant loss of native forests. Where once 80% of the country was forest cover, the figure currently is only 11%. This stands in contrast to the 35% forest cover of many other European countries.

Government subsidies to farmers and private landowners to encourage forest growth over intensive farming have failed to reach their target of 18% forest cover. And when reforestation is carried out, it is generally not native trees which are planted, but rather Sitka Spruce, as this can then be used for timber. Sitka Spruce is well adapted to growing conditions here in Ireland as it does well in wet conditions, but native trees such as hawthorn and hazel better maintain and support local biodiversity. While reports indicate that the situation at Lady's Island Lake has been 40 years in the making, the government and Wexford County Council have only chosen to act on the matter now that time is beginning to run out. Relying on government ministers and other elected officials to fix the problems of capitalism will never work. Any serious attempts by government and political parties will merely come up against the cause of the climate crisis-the large corporations and the financial institutions that support them. These will not listen to reason or emotional pleas. The small, superficial changes which these corporations do allow do nothing to offset the damage they cause to the environment. Those who own and control the most of the world's resources will fight tooth and nail to hold on to their wealth. We cannot rely on a capitalist society to remedy the problems created by capitalism. We must work now to build the new world in the shell of the old. In addition to fighting together for societal change, we must also fight for climate change. There are many ways that we can take action at a local level to offset climate change. For example, shop more sustainably, join your local environmental group, cut down on eating meat, plant a community garden, take part in community tree planting… If you are lucky enough to have your own garden, consider reducing how often you mow to create a mini meadow. This also allows wildflowers to bloom, encouraging more pollinators. Participation in local groups is also a means through which we can spread our message.

Women's Health

In May of this year, *Sinn Fein* announced that they would table a motion to tackle the failings in endometriosis care. When the motion was brought forward in July, an amendment was put down by the government. The motion and the subsequent amendment were then blocked. One in ten women suffer from endometriosis, and it affects girls and women from 8 to 80. The pain associated with the disease has meant women have had to drop out of sport, and has made it difficult to attend work and school. Despite the prevalence of the disease, it is often mistreated, misdiagnosed and misunderstood.

It is a crisis in healthcare, with women waiting up to 9 years to receive a diagnosis. In some cases, women have had to travel abroad to receive a diagnosis, with one 18 year old having to travel to Bucharest. Historically and to this day women's concerns are dismissed, minimised and invalidated within the Irish health system. Women's healthcare has for far too long not been seen as a priority. This needs to change. Women should not have to travel abroad in order to receive healthcare. The health system needs to better support women so that they can live full lives.

One place they can start is in improving endometriosis care. The political wranglings and squabbles in the Dáil underline the repeated failures of government to ensure quality health care for women. Endometriosis campaigners have been fighting for years for better services. Reports emerged at the beginning of September that 747 women are currently awaiting endometriosis surgeries, with 313 of these women on waiting lists for longer than 3-12 months. Further to this, only half of the posts in the specialist centre in Cork University Maternity Hospital (the only other specialist treatment centre being Tallaght University Hospital) have been filled. According to the Endometriosis Association of Ireland, a framework for care needs to be put in place immediately as, in its absence, GPs have no avenues through which to refer patients to the relevant services in order to manage their care. This is simply not good enough! Women's health care must be made a campaigning issue that not only cannot be ignored but which will utilise grassroots control, worker solidarity and direct action until the government is forced to tackle endometriosis and all the rest.

IS 'NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR' MERE SLOGANEERING?

The Russia Ukraine war has been raging since Feb 2022 and shows no sign of abating. Since the outbreak of the war, opinion has been divided among anarchists around the world. While some celebrate Israeli war resisters, they choose to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian anarchists fighting in the Ukrainian armed forces, seeing Russia as the sole aggressor in the conflict. Others oppose both sides in the conflict, maintaining a principled anti-state position. We in Organise! IWA stand firmly in the latter camp. To write off the war as merely opposition to Russian imperialism is to play down Western imperialism and NATO expansion. It is also to ignore and downplay the roots of the current war, in the February 2014 Maidan uprising.

Following the 2014 Maidan uprising, which overthrew Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, the new government in Kyiv moved toward stronger alignment with Western powers and NATO. This shift triggered deep political and cultural tensions in Donbas, where many felt alienated by the central government's increasingly nationalist policies.

The Ukrainian government's actions following Maidan were perceived by many in Donbas as oppressive. Efforts to suppress Russian language rights, promote nationalist narratives, and sideline the region's economic interests deepened resentment. This was compounded by Kyiv's decision to launch a military operation against separatists in Donbas, known as the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO). This military campaign was in turn manipulated by Russia, who continually used Ukrainian attacks on the Donbas as a pretext for intervention.

The annexation of the Crimea and support for separatists in Donbas and Luhansk were merely moves by Russia to destabilize and undermine NATO's expansion and maintain regional dominance. Involvement in Donbas in particular was never about protecting the working class, but rather securing power and control and protecting capitalist interests.

Anarchist involvement in the Ukrainian military as part of the Resistance Committee has drawn comparisons from supporters to both the Makhnovshchina during and following the Russian Revolution, and the CNT during the Spanish Revolution and Civil War. However, they are not the same. While Nestor Makhno's Revolutionary Insurgent Army of Ukraine originally fought alongside the Bolsheviks, they variously struggled against the Austro-German invasion, Ukrainian Nationalists and ultimately the Bolsheviks themselves during their 4 year existence. During this time, they sought to establish an anarchist society based on the principles of anarchist communism.

In the period leading up to the Spanish Civil War, the CNT also sought to instigate the social revolution. This was one reason why the anarchist militias were able to mobilise so quickly. While anarchist militias fought against Franco's forces, there was also widespread social transformation with land and factories coming under workers' control and self management. Sadly there seems to be no or little attempt by Ukrainian anarchists to instigate a social revolution.

'No war but the class war' should not be just a catchy slogan. Rather it should be a call to action. As anarchists, we must resist imperialism and militarism in all forms, while building solidarity with the international working class. And we must support anti-war movements in both Russia and Ukraine. For surely we have more in common with workers in regions such as Donbas, for example, than with the ruling classes who seek to expand their territories.

Solidarity to the war resisters, the deserters, the conscientious objectors and the anti-militarists!

Direct Action Gets The Goods

The Central Bank of Ireland had been due to vote on 2nd September to decide whether or not to continue to approve Israeli War Bonds. However, in a major victory for the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign who had been holding weekly protests outside the Central Bank, the decision was taken on 1st September not to renew the approvals after their expiry. Luxembourg are now authorised to approve them for the European Union, however IPSC have stated they will work with comrades in Luxembourg to ensure funding for Israeli genocide is cut off.

The UK government announced in July that they would formally recognise the state of Palestine in September, unless Israel hold a ceasefire. This despite the fact that, on 5th July, the direct action group Palestine Action was proscribed a terrorist organisation. Hundreds of people have been arrested for showing support for the group at protests and demonstrations across the UK. However, despite proscription, the group was able to secure a victory when Elbit Systems silently closed their Bristol facility on 6th September.

Efforts to get humanitarian aid into Gaza continue. Despite three flotillas failing to breach Israel's blockade so far this year, the fourth and largest, the Global Sumud Flotilla, set sail in late August. Dockworkers in Genoa have announced that if contact with the flotilla is lost, port workers would immediately block all shipments to Israel. However, there have been two suspected drone attacks on the Global Sumud Flotilla within two days on the flotilla while docked in a Tunisian port.

Global Sumud Flotilla comes under drone attack

Sexual Harassment in the National Ambulance Service

The Journal Investigates reported in July of this year of a toxic culture within the National Ambulance Service (NAS).

According to the *Journal*, multiple female paramedics made contact to highlight an unsafe culture within the service. One female paramedic reported being dry humped by two male colleagues, who passed off their behaviour as banter. She also received multiple unsolicited text messages off another male colleague which made her feel uncomfortable. The same female paramedic reported a hidden camera which was found in the women's bathroom.

In each of these incidents, the management response was largely non-existent. Another female paramedic reported having been groped by a male colleague while working as an intern. Her female supervisor told her to "say nothing - he'll ruin your life." This woman subsequently left the ambulance service after five years service.

As public service employees, the NAS are subject to the same Dignity at Work policy as other public service staff. The aim of this policy is to create and maintain an environment where employees feel safe and respected.

Between 2023 and 2025, 41 complaints were made under Dignity at Work. However, only 17 were deemed to require formal investigation. The picture accompanying this article is used as part of the recruitment campaign for the National Ambulance Service - with a link to 'Find Out More'. What women are finding on joining a toxic culture of sexual harassment - a the culture that needs to change.

FÓRSA SCHOOL SECRETARIES AND CARETAKERS STRIKE

Thursday 28th August saw the commencement of indefinite strike action by school secretaries and caretakers affiliated with Fórsa trade union.

The main aim of the strike was parity-workers were calling on the Department of Education to classify them as public sector employees, which would entitle them to a public service pension alongside other benefits. Post-primary teachers' unions ASTI and TUI, along with primary school teacher union INTO urged their members not to take on any secretarial or caretaker work during the strike.

Due to lack of government engagement on the weekend of 30th August, workers took to the picket line on the week commencing 1st September. This same week saw demonstrations at key locations, such as Leinster House, and the office of Minister for Finance Jack Chambers in response to a continuing lack of government engagement. The aforementioned teachers' unions, ASTI, TUI and INTO began to call for intervention to resolve the strike when it emerged that schools were unable to cope with the pressure. One school in Gorey, Co. Wexford had to close, as it could not run as normal.

Organise! IWA were on hand in Dublin to show solidarity to the striking workers, talking with them, joining in with the picket, and providing snacks, etc. Ultimately, the strike action was called off on the night of 5th September, as Fòrsa secured an agreement at the Workplace Relations Commission designed to bring an end to the strike action. However, once it was suspended, the strike slipped quickly from the news feed. As of yet, there seems to have been no agreement on pension parity.

SYNDICALISTS & THE STATE VS ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTS?

On Saturday, 9 August, Organise! Friends of the IWA-AIT held a public meeting in Belfast in solidarity with our besieged comrades in the CNT-AIT who face eviction from their historic premises in Tirso de Molina in Madrid.

This is the result of court action taken against them by their former comrades in the CNT-CIT who have set upon a path of transforming themselves into a centralised, mainstream business union that has trade marked its name on a red and black logo. They are trying to crush those who remain committed to the organising practices of anarcho-syndicalism, direct action, mutual aid, solidarity and the goal of anarchist social revolution.

This is only the beginning, the CNT-CIT are intent on destroying the last vestige of anarcho-syndicalism not just in Madrid but across the territory controlled by the Spanish state. Local CNT-AIT unions across Spain are also facing eviction from their historic premises.

The shameless actions of the CIT union in Spain who have been trying to usurp the property of the CNT-AIT are clear as they use the state to attack the anarcho-syndicalist tradition in Spain.

The CIT union in Madrid has its own headquarters and doesn't need another. They cannot maintain it and it has always been the unions of CNT-AIT Madrid which have paid for and maintained these premises. As the CNT-AIT Madrid put it:

These are spaces that serve not only as anarcho-syndicalist headquarters, but also as centres for broader social struggles, for spreading anarchist culture and ideas, and as refuge for people brutalised or persecuted by police and the State.

The CNT-AIT in Madrid had indeed engaged in dialogue - dialogue that was cut off by the CIT with no explanation. It is clear that the CIT prefer profits to pay their professional union bureaucrats over dialogue and anarchist principles.

These principles are clear: places belong to those who have worked to maintain them, paid to maintain them and actually use them. We do not support private property and landlord tactics.

Such actions clearly break with the traditions of anarcho-communism, in favour of some bourgeois legalistic mentality.

The Continental American Workers' Association (in Spanish the Asociación Continental Americana de Trabajadores - ACAT) has called for a boycott of all the affiliates to the CIT globally. Affiliates of the CIT are the CNT-CIT (Spain), EZE (Greece), IP (Poland), IWW North America (USA and Canada), IWW WISERA (Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland), FAU Germany, FORA-CIT (Argentina), USI (Italy).

Shame on them and shame on the poseurs who try to legitimise this disgusting behaviour.

See the previous issue of Black Star for more information.

Build A Working Class Alternative!

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland affiliated to the International Worker's Association as a 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

In the South of Ireland we currently have members and contacts in Cavan, Cork, Dublin, Monaghan, and elsewhere and we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com

email: OrganiseASyndIreland@gmail.com

Solidarity Statement of the Persaudaraan Pekerja Anarko Sindikalis (PPAS) on the People's Resistance in Indonesia. August – September 2025

This solidarity statement we dedicate to those murdered by the State: Affan Kurniawan, Andika Lutfi Falah, Iko Juliant Junior, Muhammad Akbar Basri, Rheza Sendy Pratama, Rusdamdiansyah, Saiful Akbar, Sarina Wati, Septinus Sesa, and Sumari. Eternal as names, never reduced to mere numbers.

The illusion of people's representation through parliament has collapsed. The DPR, with its reckless hands, endlessly forges policies that crush the people while deepening the abyss of social inequality. As more and more of us are condemned to live under suffering and exploitation by State-capitalism, the DPR reveals its true character as parasites — leeching off the sweat of the people, paying themselves obscene salaries with our taxes, sums unimaginable to the vast majority.

The police, too, have unmasked themselves as nothing more than the guard dogs of the ruling elites and the State, answering the people's righteous anger with sheer brutality. The murder of online motorbike driver Affan Kurniawan on August 28, 2025 — a spark thrown onto the tinderbox of fury long ignited by the State — was met not with justice, but with batons, fists, tear gas, and live bullets, leaving bodies dead and broken within days.

The deployment of police and military, armed with their arsenal of weapons and the violence that comes with them, further entrenches State fascist repression. At the same time, the State seeks to monopolize "truth" — crushing press freedom, restricting social media that spreads news of the people's anger and the rot of the State and its elites. This repression is followed by arbitrary arrests of activists branded as provocateurs of the people's rage, the detention of hundreds of demonstrators, and the disappearance of dozens whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Through this statement, PPAS spits condemnation upon every instrument of State repression. We grieve, we rage, and we honor all those killed by the State during the uprisings of August 25 – September 3, 2025. We stand unflinching in solidarity with the victims of arbitrary arrest and with those still missing.

Therefore, PPAS raises the call for justice for all the people, demanding:

Strip the Parliament of its false mandate of representation;
End the forced arrests of activists and demonstrators;
Free those already imprisoned;
Return our comrades who are still missing;
Defund and disarm the police and military;
Smash State fascism in all its forms of repression.

May justice return to those who are owed. Demand the impossible! For in the end, only two roads remain: the road to the victory of the oppressed and exploited under State-capitalism — or the road to the triumph of the fascists.

PPAS
September 5, 2025